

Seattle City Council

**Culture, Civil Rights, Health and Personnel Committee Meeting**

2:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Words' Worth**

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Donna Miscolta**

Today's poet is **Allison Green**

**Allison Green** is the author of the novel Half-Moon Scar and stories and poems published in a number of literary journals. Three poems were recently published in Jump Start, an anthology from Northwest Renaissance. Allison chairs the Arts & Humanities Division at Highline Community College.

**Barista Love**

by Allison Green

The ones who came before her had their charms.  
Abel, whose double earrings and tattoos  
were quite as lovely as Bernard's blue hair and scars.  
But I moved on. My first true loves were two:  
Elaine, who did the hard work of the pull  
and Sara-beth, who made the pretty milk. She wore  
her necklines low; her poodle skirts were full.  
They got their scholarships to Smith and swore  
they would be back. But I was on my own.  
The barista at my bakery was, I learned,  
a poet of espresso and – amen! –  
a poet of the word as well and earned  
her wage by knowing drinks and names and more:  
her crema brought the Mormons in the door.

-- end --